Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Information January 2013

Audience:
Administrators (AEA/LEA);
IEP Teams, including Parents;
Interpreters in PK-12 Settings

Interpreter Licensure Website

Since July 1, 2005, every person providing sign language interpreting or transliterating services in lowa shall be licensed.

It is the responsibility of each interpreter to become familiar with the licensing requirements and subsequent updates. The lowa Board of Professional Licensure website is http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/. Under 'Page navigation' select 'Board of Sign Language Interpreters & Transliterators' and click 'go.'

Interpreter License Renewal

An interpreter may renew his/her license online up to 60 days before the current license expires. The license expiration date is June 30 of odd-numbered years.

If the license is not renewed by July of odd-numbered years, the license becomes inactive and the interpreter cannot practice until he/she has reactivated the license. "Grace period" means the 30-day period following expiration of a license when the license is still considered to be active. In order to renew a license during the grace period, a licensee is required to pay a late fee. See the website for information http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/. If the license is not renewed during the grace period, the license becomes inactive. Once a license becomes inactive, then an individual has to meet the requirements of reactivation prior to being able to renew the license

 $\underline{http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/SignLanguageInterpreters and Transliterators.aspx?pg=Reactivation.}$

Interpreting with an Inactive License

According to current licensing rules, the definition of an "Inactive license" means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period. The category of "inactive license" may include licenses formerly known as lapsed, inactive, delinquent, closed, or retired.

If the license is not renewed by July of odd-numbered years, the license will be in a 30-day grace period. A licensee who fails to renew the license by the end of the grace period has an inactive license. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in lowa, but may not practice as an interpreter in lowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices as an interpreter in the state of lowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive

action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies (IAC 361.5(7)).

Information on how to reactivate a license is on the web at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/SignLanguageInterpretersandTransliterators.aspx?pg=Re activation.

Licensure by Examination Verification

Any sign language interpreter who takes the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) and scores 3.5 or higher qualifies for 'licensure by examination' by the lowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters & Transliterators, Bureau of Professional Licensure, Iowa Department of Public Health. An interpreter may also qualify to be licensed by examination by passing one of the exams listed in Chapter 361 under "Requirements for Licensure"

https://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IAC/LINC/Chapter.645.361.pdf.

The Department of Public Health, Bureau of Professional Licensure, requires that the testing service (for the EIPA, that is Boys Town National Research Hospital) send the results directly to the licensing board. You cannot make a copy of your results and send it to the board. An 'authorizing release' is located on the following link http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/SignLanguageInterpretersandTransliterators.aspx?pg=Links.

Once you receive a score of 3.5 or higher on the EIPA, send the completed 'authorizing release' to Boys Town who will send an official copy of your results to the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators. Fulfilling these requirements is the interpreter's responsibility.

Licensure – Name Change or Mailing Address Change

Interpreters are required to submit to the Bureau of Professional Licensure name changes and mailing address changes <u>within 30 days</u> after the change occurs. Failure to notify the board of changes may result in your license being placed on inactive status.

CEUs for Interpreters

Beginning July 1, 2009 forward, all license holders are required to obtain 40 hours of continuing education prior to license renewal (every two years), including the first renewal.

The Iowa Department of Health, Bureau of Professional Licensure page regarding CEUs for sign language interpreters is located at

www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/SignLanguageInterpretersandTransliterators.aspx?pg=Education

Substitute Interpreter Information

Please see the document entitled 'Substitute Sign Language Interpreters in PK-12 Settings' located on the Iowa Department of Education website, click on the "A to Z Index" then "Special Education," "Programs & Services" and "Audiology, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Education."

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=584&Itemid=1608